

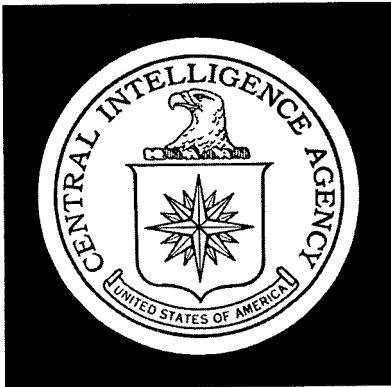
Top Secret

(38)



25X1

MCO



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

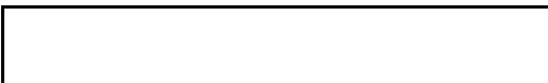
MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

State Department review completed

Top Secret

25X1



10 November 1966

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0

25X1

Information as of 1600
10 November 1966

25X1

HIGHLIGHTS

US forces in Tay Ninh Province are maintaining sporadic contact with the enemy. One US patrol in this area was attacked with a type of tear gas, the first confirmed use of gas in the war.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Operation ATTLEBORO, now totaling 15 US battalions, continues to sweep central Tay Ninh Province with only light contact reported (Para. 1). Viet Cong troops use tear gas against a US patrol for the first time in the war (Para. 2).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
The Constituent Assembly deputies have referred the government's controversial decree law to a 12-man committee (Paras. 1-2). The first meeting of Tran Van Don's political front, which should play a key role in future elections, was held last week (Para. 3).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:
There is nothing of significance to report.

25X1

V. Communist Political Developments: Vietnamese students appear to be withdrawing under Peking ban against foreign students (Paras. 1-2).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics

1963 through the week of 30 Oct - 5 Nov 66

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

25X1



25X1

I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Only sporadic contact with the Viet Cong was reported today as widespread patrol activity by elements of the multibattalion US force of Operation ATTLEBORO continued in the swamplands and woodlands of central Tay Ninh Province. An additional battalion of the US 1st Infantry Division has been committed to the operation, bringing the total to 15 US battalions. Two South Vietnamese Ranger battalions have also moved to the area to supplement the US forces.

2. A US patrol was attacked northeast of Tay Ninh city early today by a Communist force using gas grenades. Preliminary reports indicate that the gas is a harmless tear gas type. Nearly 1,200 gas grenades were seized in an enemy arms cache yesterday. Although the grenades have not been fully analyzed by US authorities, they are not of US manufacture. This is the first confirmed enemy use of gas in the war. The effectiveness of the gas attack is unknown; gas masks are standard equipment for American combat soldiers.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

3. The week of 30 October to 5 November compared with the week of 23 to 29 October:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
23-29 Oct	12	0	0
30 Oct - 5 Nov	7	0	0

10 November 1966

I-1

25X

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>			<u>GVN</u>		
	<u>23-29 Oct</u>	<u>- 30 Oct-5</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>23-29 Oct</u>	<u>- 30 Oct-5</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Individual	346		Not	113		47
Crew-Served	<u>28</u>		Reported	<u>0</u>		<u>2</u>
TOTALS	374			113		49

10 November 1966

I-3

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The Constituent Assembly on 10 November appointed a 12-man "amendment committee" to determine what changes should be made in the controversial government Decree Law 21. The committee will submit its findings to the assembly for approval and, probably in about a month, will meet with government representatives to try and reach some agreement. The 12 men were chosen from the five legitimate "blocs" (two each) plus two of the assembly officers, representing a cross-section of the membership. There was no further debate or discussion of the decree law issue.

2. Following the appointment of the amendment committee, the deputies discussed for the first time the basic characteristics of the constitution. However, the chairman of the constitution-drafting committee requested two more weeks to prepare adequately, and further discussion was postponed. An agenda for assembly activities during the coming two weeks will probably be worked out in the next few days. According to the embassy, the deputies might review the results of the Manila Conference and the general "situation" in South Vietnam in lieu of a more substantive agenda.

New Political Front Group Meets

3. Retired General Tran Van Don, one of the country's most popular leaders of the November 1963 revolution--which overthrew Diem--held the first meeting of his political front group on 30 October. Don reaffirmed the spirit of the November revolution in a speech to some 200 persons and stated that a working plan of the front's activities would be finished in a month. In attendance were defense minister General Nguyen Huu Co, militant Buddhist monk Thich Phap Tri, and prominent politicians Dang Van Sung, Phan Huy Quat, and Tran Van Tuyen. Although no platform was

10 November 1966

II-1

[REDACTED]

presented at the meeting, it is apparent [REDACTED]

25X

25X

25X1

[REDACTED] that the front represents a serious attempt by ambitious southerners to create a viable and popular political base for future elections.

10 November 1966

II-2

25X1

III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

10 November 1966

III-1

25X

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Rumors continue to circulate that Peking is willing to exempt Vietnamese students from its general ban on all foreign students. This story was first reported by AFP and other Western correspondents in Peking who claimed on 15 October that some 200 Vietnamese students in China for indoctrination and ideological training would be allowed to remain at a special university in South China. The correspondents reported that Hanoi refused the offer. It is very possible that Hanoi does not want its students subjected to Chinese-style ideological indoctrination. Politburo member Truong Chinh authored a strong editorial in the September issue of the party theoretical journal underscoring the necessity for the Vietnamese Communist Party to conduct its own training program in Communist ideology. The editorial had strong nationalistic overtones.

2. The same story about Peking's exception of Vietnamese students was repeated early this month [redacted]

25X1

25X

[redacted] that 3,000 North Vietnamese students are being evacuated from China under the Peking ban against foreign students. [redacted]

25X

25X1

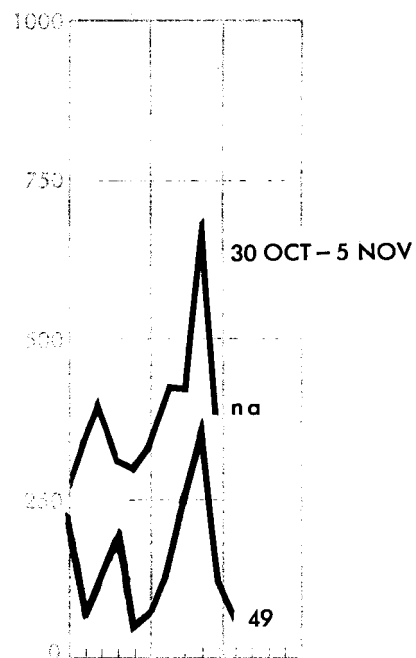
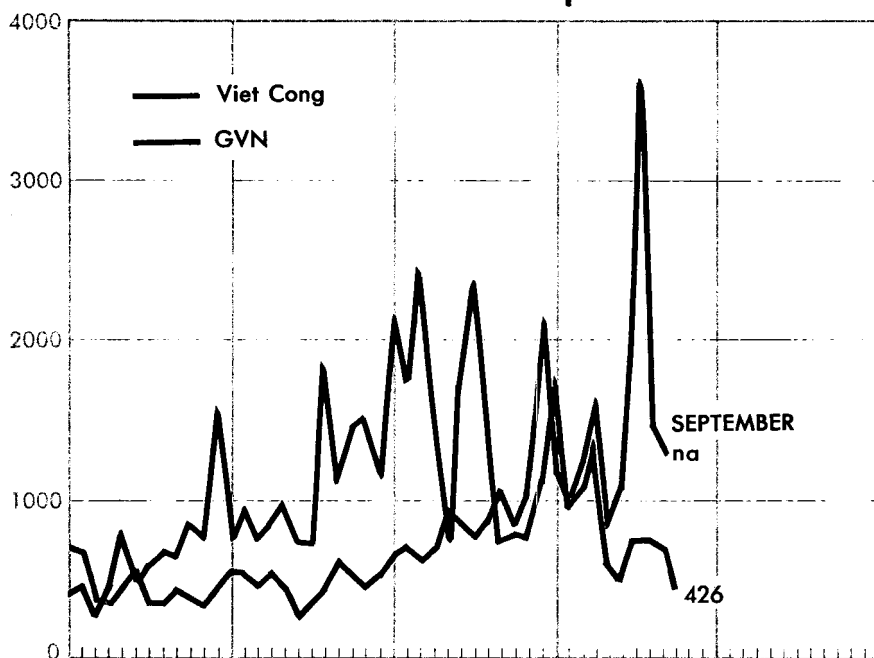
[redacted] Hanoi had refused Peking's offer to train Vietnamese students in political subjects at Nan-king University.

3. In spite of these rumors of student withdrawal, Peking clearly intends to continue training North Vietnamese technical personnel. A new agreement to train "large numbers" of such personnel was signed in Peking on 27 October when DRV Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi passed through the Chinese capital on his way home from visiting European Communist parties. Almost all bloc countries included provision for training of DRV nationals in the recently signed aid agreements.

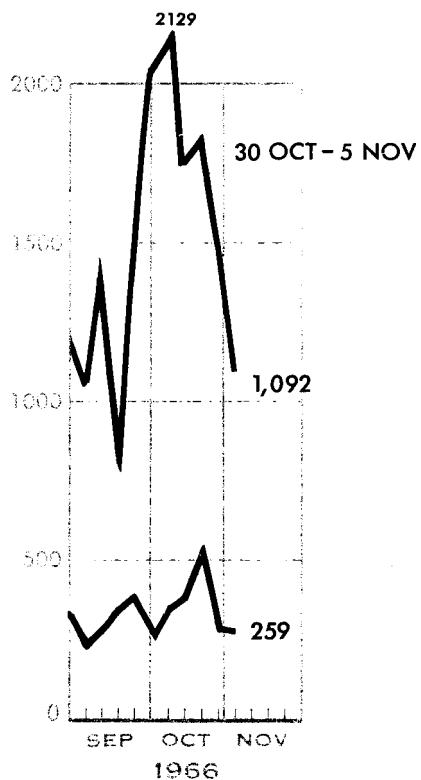
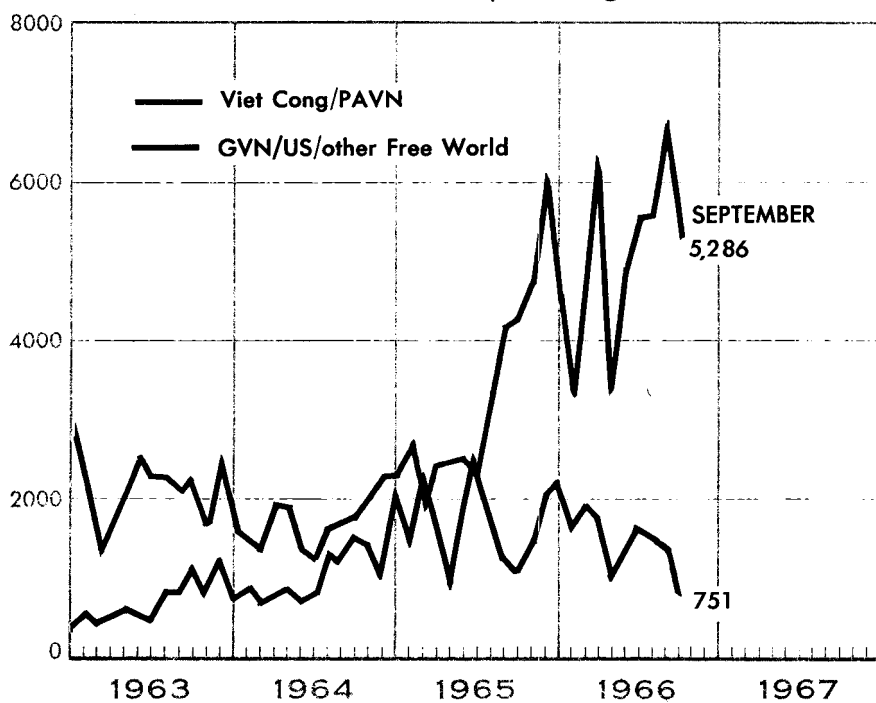
10 November 1966

V-1

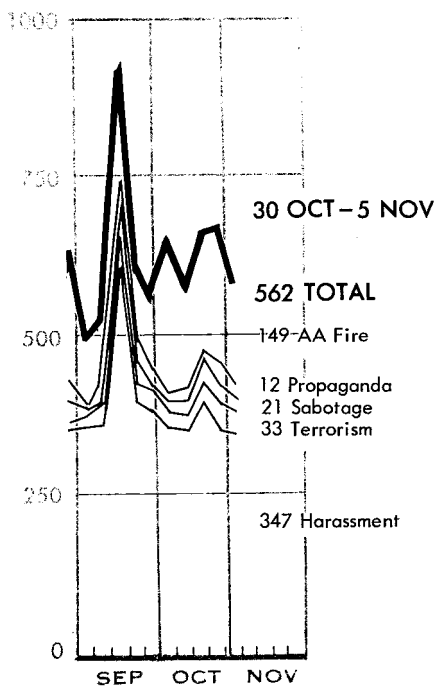
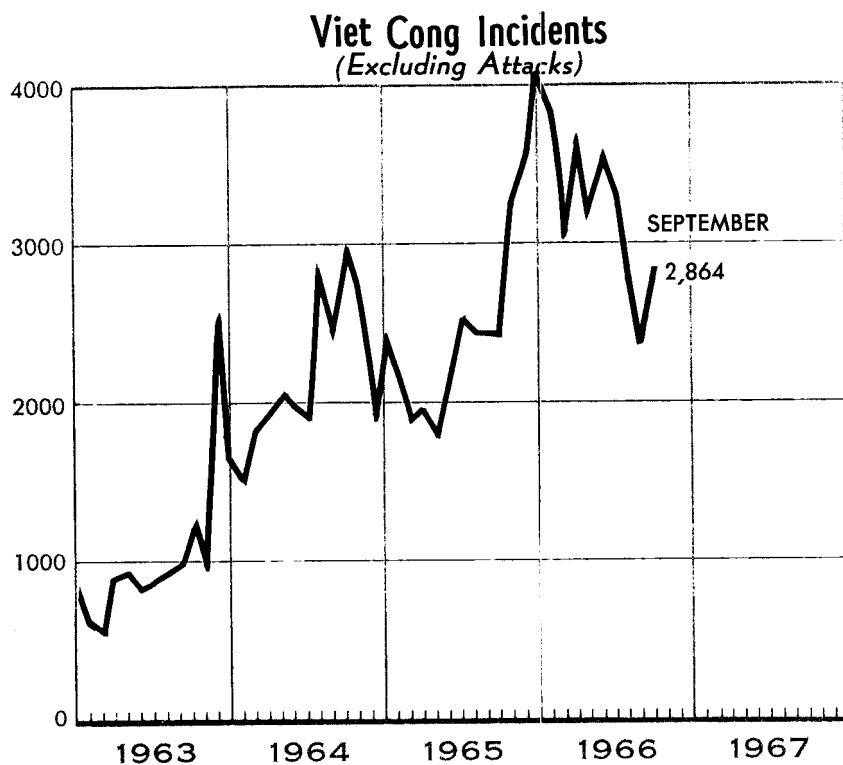
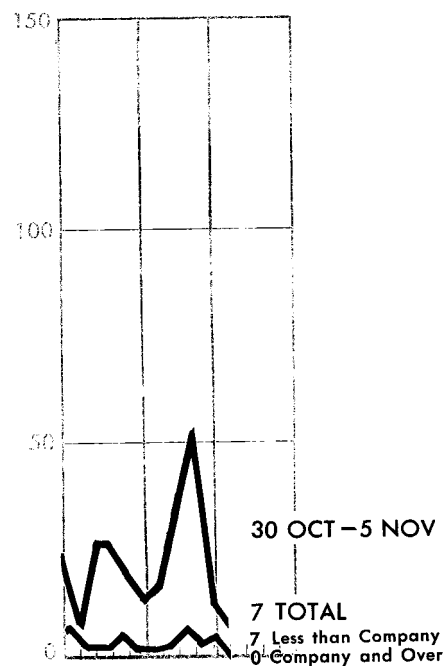
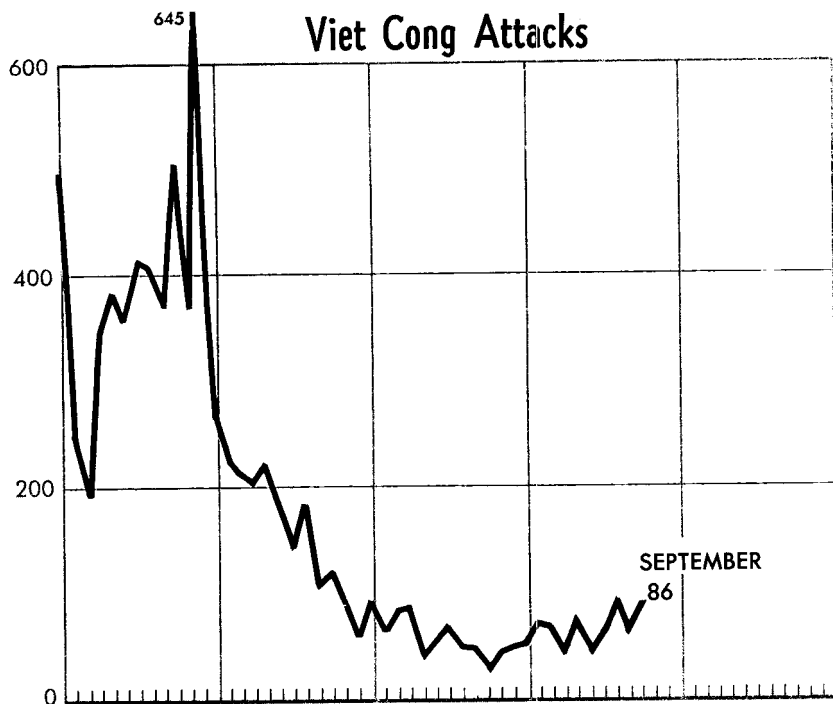
Weapons Losses



Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 5,740 Wounded 32,900 Captured 79 Missing 355



25X1

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0
Top Secret

Top Secret

Approved For Release 2004/11/03 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001400010037-0